

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, paragraph commencing at line 14:

Most of the customers connected to the access network by optical fibre are commercial entities. The significant cost of obtaining optical connection has, up to recent times, discouraged private[,] or residential take-up. Moreover, the obtrusiveness of current optical network termination (ONT) equipment required to support the fibre connection – usually unimportant in an industrial or commercial environment, where it is usually hidden away in a dedicated communications room – would not sit well in a residential context. As prices start falling however, demand for FTTH is growing.

Pages 1-2, bridging paragraph:

The surface-mount boxes tend to abut about 36mm from the wall and are generally bulky and aesthetically displeasing. They are also susceptible to accidental or malicious damage as they can be knocked against and dislodged. The flush-mounted boxes need to be used with a compatible back box. However, these are more time-consuming to install than surface-mounted boxes, as the wall surface will need to be broken to ~~created~~ create a suitable cavity to accept the back box.

Pages 12-13, bridging paragraph:

Figure 12 depicts the double-chambered device from the "external" view, which the service ~~provide~~ provider might have when the device is installed in the customer's wall. It comprises a housing with a first chamber (100a) and a second chamber (100b). The first, or external, chamber (100a) faces the exterior of the premises, and is intended to be accessible to, and the responsibility of, the service provider. The second, or customer's, chamber (100b) is intended to be accessible to the customer. In this embodiment, the chambers are separated by a dividing bulkhead (101).

Page 14, paragraph commencing at line 9:

When the terminated optical fibre is connected to the optical connector, the premises ~~[[is]]~~ are deemed to be connected to the external network. A multiple access point (111) can be provided in the customer's chamber, serving as the premises' multimedia and network access point, allowing the customer to connect cables (113) such as those for data (e.g. Ethernet), video coaxial, telephony, and other networked equipment such as wireless LAN and DECT telephones. Power supply cables for the ONT could also be included here. The skilled person would appreciate that various other types of equipment could be included – such as a basic backup power supply allowing

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Serial No. 10/594,678
February 6, 2009

emergency communications (e.g. allowing 911 calls to be made even when power is down), solar panels in place of an electrical power supply, an optical trickler charger to meet the ONT's power needs, and so on.